

ENGLISH

Infosheet 3. Admissibility

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**ADMISSIBILITY INTERVIEW
FOR PEOPLE FROM SYRIA,
AFGHANISTAN, SOMALIA,
BANGLADESH, AND PAKISTAN**



**LEGAL
CENTRE
LESVOS**

The purpose of this infosheet is to provide general information about your rights in the asylum process in Lesvos Greece under the border procedure as of July 2024.

It is not exhaustive, subject to changes and we recommend that you consult with a lawyer authorised to practice law in Greece or an NGO providing free legal aid about your case BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW, in order to be best prepared for it.

If you applied for asylum in Greece and your **registered nationality is Afghan, Syrian, Somali, Bangladeshi or Pakistani, you will first have to give an **interview on the “admissibility” of your application.****

This means that the Greek asylum service will first assess **whether Turkey is a safe country for you personally** (instead of whether your country of origin is safe for you).

This is because the Greek government, assumes - unless you prove the contrary - that people of your nationality are safe in Turkey and can apply for international protection there.

Note: If you are registered as being from one of these countries, but you are in fact **stateless** or your registered **nationality is incorrect**, you must submit proof of your nationality or statelessness to the asylum office as soon as possible, and at the latest during your interview.

During your admissibility interview you will mainly be asked **questions about your life and experience in Turkey and not about your country of origin**, such as:

- when and in which circumstances you arrived to Turkey.
- where you stayed there, and for how long.
- whether you had any problems with the Turkish police, other authorities, your employer or other groups.
- whether you could apply for international protection and whether you obtained international protection or residence there.

If they are any reasons that you personally cannot return to Turkey or that you personally are not safe there, it is important to explain those in detail during your interview.

1. IS TURKEY SAFE FOR YOU?

If there are any **reasons for which you are personally not safe in Turkey**, it is important to explain those clearly and **with as much detail as possible** during your interview, including for example:

- what happened to you and why,
- why you cannot return to Turkey and what you fear would happen to you there,
- how is this fear connected to your personal situation, and
- how did this affect your life and safety.

Reasons for which you might not be safe in Turkey are for example:

- if you personally experienced **violence or discrimination** by the Turkish police or other authorities in Turkey.
- if you were **arrested or detained** at any point in Turkey.
- if you are **at risk of unfair treatment, imprisonment or torture** by Turkish authorities.
- if you were **deported or forced to return to another country** by the Turkish authorities.

- if you were **prevented from accessing medical treatment or care** although you suffer from medical conditions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you suffer from a medical or psychological conditions, it is important to explain this from the start of your interview and for instance when you are asked how you are or how is your health. If you have any documents showing these medical problems you should present them during your interview.

- if you were **forced to work without any salary or any proper salary**, if your employer **treated you badly or restricted your movement**, if you were **forced to work while still a child**.
- if you were **forced to come to Turkey or Greece by someone**, in any way that exploits you or your freedom.
- if you personally face **a risk of violence** in Turkey from any person or group of people who hold power in Turkey and cannot received protection from the Turkish police or justice system.
- if you face a risk of being **forced into marriage** in Turkey, or if you were forced into marriage there.
- if your **children were prevented from accessing education** in Turkey.

It is also important that you explain how the reason(s) you are not safe in Turkey is/are **connected to your personal situation or identity**, for example:

- **to your race or ethnicity:** because of your skin colour, or because you are part of a racial or ethnic minority in Turkey (e.g. Arab, Afghan, Hazara, Yazidi, Kurdish, Baloch, Black African, etc)
- **to your religion:** because the religion you are practicing is not accepted in Turkey, because your place of worship was targeted, or you and/or fellow believers face violence or harassment etc.
- **to your nationality:** because you are Syrian, Afghan, Somali, Bangladeshi Pakistani, Stateless, Kurdish, etc.
- **to your political opinions:** because you have different opinions than the Turkish government and expressed them publicly or in social media, you are active in political movements, you participated in protests, or you are a public figure in Turkey, etc.
- **to your particular social group:** because of your sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, LGBT+), or because you are a woman, because you are trans, because you do not identify as a man or as a woman, because of your job in Turkey (journalist, teacher, NGO worker, etc.).

**2. DID YOU GET PROTECTION IN
TURKEY?**

If while in Turkey, you tried to seek protection or residence (“kimlik”) to regularise your situation - but were not allowed to do so, **you should explain the reasons why you could not get protection or residence in Turkey**, for example because:

- the Turkish authorities did not register you or refused to register you despite your requests, or
- the Turkish authorities never granted you any document although you were registered.

If you did not try to seek protection or residence in Turkey, it is important that you also explain why during your interview, for example because:

- you did not stay long enough in the country,
- you could not move around freely,
- you did not feel safe to register with the Turkish authorities (maybe for one of the reasons above).

**3. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONNECTION
WITH TURKEY?**

During the admissibility interview, the Greek asylum service will also assess if there are **reasons to consider that you have any connection with Turkey and could therefore safely return there.**

They might consider that you have **no connection with Turkey**, if:

- you are in Greece for more than a year.
- you have never been to Turkey before.
- Turkey was not your final destination.
- you only stayed in Turkey for a short period of time (less than a week).
- you were not able to support yourself there or to move around freely.
- you did not work in Turkey.
- you had no residence permit, ID card or “kimlik” there.
- you had or have no place to stay there.
- you have no family members, friends or professional relationships in Turkey.
- you do not speak Turkish.

If you have, in fact, no connection with Turkey, it is important for you to prove it during your interview.

To learn more about your rights and obligations during your interviews with the Greek asylum service, read the Infosheet **Know your rights - In the asylum interview.**

After your interview:

- ❖ **If your case is found admissible (accepted)**, the Greek asylum service will inform you about the next steps and about the date of your next interview (the asylum interview).

We recommend that you also consult with a lawyer or a legal NGO in preparation of your asylum interview. Consult also the Infosheet **Know your rights- Who can get international protection?**

- ❖ **If your case is found inadmissible (rejected)**, you can appeal this decision (free of charge).

The deadline to appeal is short (10 days from the moment you were informed about your rejection). We recommend that you consult with a lawyer as fast as possible and ask for an explanation of your rejection. You can also consult the Infosheet **Know your rights - After a negative decision (rejection).**

Notes

Notes



**LEGAL
CENTRE
LESVOS**

WhatsApp: +30 694 961 8883

Landline: +30 225 1040 665

Email: info@legalcentrelesvos.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LesvosLegal

Address: Komninaki 20, Mytilene 81100

Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday - 10am to 2pm